

## Through the Looking Glass

BY EVELYN NESBIT

Why does the farmer no longer dig up his fields with a spade? Why does the builder no longer make his own bricks of straw? Why don't we walk from New York to Washington?

Why? Because we have improved. Men are too clever to waste their time and energy making pins by hand or splitting rails with an ax the way Abraham Lincoln did. Labor saving machinery has been devised to release men's energies for better things. The men who used to pound out nails with a hammer, and turn out one nail in five minutes, are tending machines that produce thousands of nails in the time they could make one nail by hand.

So it is with everything in industry. That is why the modern farmer can cultivate thousands of acres of land in the time he used to spend on his tiny back yard; why the builder can construct skyscrapers instead of little houses, and why we travel from New York to Washington in speeding express trains.

That is why the women of today are learning, and thinking.

Labor-saving machinery has crept into the home to make possible for every woman leisure hours in which to read and study. Any woman who does not avail herself of the new devices is as foolish as the carpenter would be to cut down trees and saw them by hand into boards before he set to work to build a cottage.

Put a fireless cooker into your kitchen. Make use of electricity the way men do in industry, and see how much more you will be able to accomplish with less effort. Get vacuum cleaners to save your backs. Get an electric washing machine to save your hands for piano playing. Stop kneading dough and get a bread mixer. Electric irons, power sewing machines, were not invented as a luxury. They are here to help women. Use them. Be as progressive as the blacksmiths and the pin makers.

### FINISHING OFF THE EDGES

Machine Zigzag Stitching, Battlement Effect, Ruffling or Plaiting, Add to the Decoration.

The edges of things, or rather the way those edges are finished, make such a difference. This is particularly true of bundles. And yet, when you stop to consider how little real time and trouble it takes to add a row of broken stitches in groups of three, as compared with the charming effectiveness of the finished garment, the wonder of it is that more attention isn't given to the "edges."

Here are but a few of the lovely things that can do duty as decoration, as well as finish: Machine hemstitching worked zigzag, hemstitching in battlement effect, ruffling or plaiting of net in white or color, easy stitches, and tinted laces.

It is an easy matter to pencil off an irregular line for the hemstitcher to follow; and that is perhaps the very easiest kind of all. But the tinted lace and net idea is quite the newest and most effective. Both are seen usually done in tiny, tiny plaits.

Among the easy stitches which are always effective and pretty nearly always within the vogue, come French knots worked in groups of three, alternating short and long blanket stitch, long horizontal stitches interspersed with squares or dots worked solid, and the aforementioned straight stitches worked in threes. These are especially decorative done on the slant, the stitches graduating or alternating in length.

### ADVANCED SPRING STRAW HAT



This model, a winsome design, is of navy blue pineapple straw, and is cherry trimmed.

New Touches in Embroidery. The newest thing in children's dresses are those trimmed in hand embroidery, often in some figure or picture such as a flower pot or the popular Nemette and Blintin.

for success in buying blouses. A woman must have, or must acquire, a true knowledge of the juxtaposition of fabrics. She must know what material in a blouse goes best with the material of her suit or her separate skirt and top coat. For instance, georgette, banded in a bold design, does not go with a homespun or a cheviot suit. That is merely one example out of a dozen or two others that could easily be enumerated.

The truth about georgette—which is worth repeating because the fabric plays so dominant a role in separate blouses this year—is that it looks far better as part of a costume than as an addition to a coat suit. As a peplum blouse worn with a skirt of its own color, or in harmonious contrast to it, it is very good; not as good as satin or silk jersey, but commendable. It may be ornamental, if one can adopt that type of blouse, and even trimmed with beads, which is a debatable form of ornamentation on a separate garment, but not impossible for certain types of women.

Because of the adoption of uniforms through the war there is a strong recrudescence of the tailored linen shirtwaist for women, especially in horizon blue, shrimp pink and dead white edged with color. These have tucked fronts, long plain sleeves, regulation armholes, turnover cuffs with link buttons, and the collar of a French student of the Second Empire.

Women have found that a rolling collar with a slight bit of starch, worn with a cravat, is an attractive neckline. Only the very young woman with a slim, smooth neck can attempt the high turnover collar, either starched or soft. Below a face that shows the marks of time this collar is impossible.

### Blouses as Part of Costumes.

When the French designers made the peplum blouse and then sat back in watchful waiting for its success, which took long to come, they created something that was very worth while. American women see the light today, and they grasp with eagerness the possibilities of this outside tunic blouse.

It is difficult to persuade a certain set of women that there are other types of blouses. Nothing could induce them to return to the kind that tucks in under the skirt belt. They feel they have eliminated this awkward line around the middle of the body, and they choose all their blouses after the tunic pattern, whether for railroad suits or for service with a separate skirt under a fur coat.

It is sometimes permitted to tuck the back of the blouse under the skirt, providing there is a front panel that drops, apron-wise, below the waist, and an ornamental belt which runs from each side of it to the back. This is the most ingenious compromise between the new and the old blouses.

Blouse Inspired by American Indian. Fabrics are now chosen for these tunic-like garments that have never been considered in the making of short shirtwaists. Kid, for instance. That is a material unheard of among the weavers as part and parcel of women's apparel. Yet the new kid tunic blouses, sent from France and copied in this country, are excessively smart and better liked by certain well-dressed women than the hip blouses of caracol cloth worn during the midwinter.

These kid tunics make a woman look



Peplum blouse of heavy black satin, with wide flat collar of fine cream lace. The hem is turned under to form a puff. It is tied at the waist with a narrow dull-silver cord.

amazingly like her Indian predecessors in this country. Colored skins are chosen, and on dark surfaces there is an ornamentation such as the Indians put on their pottery. Take a dark-blue kid tunic worn with a black velvet skirt, have it ornamented in a pottery design in yellow and black and a thread of dull red, and you get an exceedingly ingenious costume.

The milliners are quite willing to match up these kid tunics with turbans and the woman who likes to look like an Indian chooses a turban, not in kid, but in taffeta, with upstanding quilts painted at the tips.

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## TO SAVE MATERIAL

Negligees May Easily Be Made From Remnants.

Discarded Evening Gowns Also Offer Excellent Materials for the Fashioning of Such Garments.

When a few yards of material picked up at a very low figure on a remnant counter can be turned into a charming gown for home wear there seems to be no excuse for a woman disregarding the feelings of her own family by wearing something that is unbecoming, half worn or soiled. It is so easy for a woman to express her real individuality in these items of in-time apparel that the temptation to possess a number of them is strong with the average really feminine type of woman.

A couple of widths of rich brocade may be transformed into a lovely gown by the simple process of cutting an opening in the center so that the head may be slipped through, finishing this neatly, of course; catching the material together underneath the arms and allowing the front and back panels thus formed to flare as they will over a slip of soft chiffon or lace. Or two or three widths of chiffon in contrasting colors may be laid one over the other, the underneath section being full-figure length, the next one a trifle shorter, and so on, and



Negligee of Satin and Lace.

possibly a lace scarf topping the whole. A charming robe d'interior is the result.

The sketch shows a simple and graceful negligee made of lavender satin, with front and back panels laid in large tucks. An old-fashioned lace shawl draped about the shoulders completes the garment. Of course it is not essential that a shawl be used, and, instead of lace, a brocade or a figured silk voile may be used for the coat.

Discarded evening dresses often offer excellent materials for the fashioning of negligee garments and, regardless of the fact that we are no longer at war, fabric saving is advisable. There is no prospect of an immediate reduction in prices, and until France and Belgium are again able to produce textiles it is not likely that either prices or supply will return to normal.

### FASHIONS IN BRIEF

The new fur coats are circular. Cord belts of gold are being worn. Evening wraps still blouse at the back.

The oval necks appear on tiny girls' party frocks.

A graceful negligee of peach blossom satin has an odd silk-tasseled hood.

A gown of mauve tulle is ornamented by a large orange rose at the girdle.

A perfect gown for a woman in the thirties is of gold cloth, veiled with black net.

Black tulle is often worn over gold lace, making a simple but excellent evening gown.

The long-waisted bodice of black jet starts many a frock of black velvet on its happy way.

A most beautiful cape is of sapphire-blue satin banded deeply with old-blue broadcloth.

Handkerchief linen frocks for morning wear in the South have nothing but hemstitching for decoration.

A traveling costume of green velours has a shawl collar of monkey fur and a silver-buckled leather belt.

### A Little Advice From a Buyer.

Here is what experience has taught one buyer of coats and suits and dresses: First, get that which is becoming, for the really becoming frock is never out of style. At least, there are always occasions when the becoming garment can be worn, whether or not it is this season's or last year's. Seek the color that is most favorable to you, and avoid the one that is not especially so, no matter how smart you may think it appears. Then, in general, if you really must, get the odd and unusual garment.

## VARIED "VOICES" OF FROGS

Man Who Has Studied Subject Ascertains He Can Tell Different Species by the Notes.

The first vertebrate creatures to succeed in producing vocal sounds were the amphibians, and, although there has been little variety in their individual repertoires through the ages, they have diligently cultivated their powers. Dr. Frank Overton, in an account of the frogs and the toads of Long Island, describes their distinctive calls and songs. The common toad of Long Island has "a combination of a low whistle and a moan"; the common toad of the mainland utters "a sweet, thrilling whistle"; the spadefoot makes a squawk "like the groan of a deep-voiced man who is having his tooth pulled"; the chorus of the cricket frog "heard at a distance sounds like jingling of small sleigh bells," and close by "like the rattle of small pebbles poured upon a cement pavement." The common tree frog utters a loud, musical trill, and now and then a note "exactly like the sound made by a hen turkey that is calling to her mates." The spring "peeper" whistles shrilly; the leopard frog says "croak" very slowly, "in an extremely low-pitched bass voice"; the pickerel frog makes a soft sound like "a gentle musical snore"; the wood frogs heard at a distance "sound like a flock of barnyard ducks clucking, not quacking"; the note of the green frog "resembles that made by plucking a string on a harp or a bass violin." The bullfrog has a voice that in volume corresponds to the size of his body, which is more than eight inches long. "The sound resembles the bellowing of a bull," Doctor Overton can pick out the species by their voices and the notes.—Youth's Companion.

## CARPET WEAVERS OF INDIA

Hard to Imagine Work More Monotonous Than That in Which They Pass Their Lives.

Carpet weavers of India work in a long, narrow shed, straw-thatched, without any walls, open to sunshine and the stifling breeze that stirs the swaying plumelike leaves of the slender palm and coconut trees rearing their tall, proud heads above it. Four or five or even more boys sit on wooden boards on the mud floor in front of the old-fashioned loom, their feet resting in a shallow pit underneath it, dug especially to receive them. In one corner squats a man, his back probably turned to the weavers, his eyes dreamily gazing into space or quite shut, droning: "Three magent, two green, five blue, one orange," and so on. His sleepy sing-song sounds, to one unfamiliar with his language, like the babbling of one talking in his sleep, or like muttered prayers. But he is neither dreaming nor performing his devotions. He is dictating to the boys at the loom the colors of the thread that each respective worker is to twist about the particular strand on which he is working. The lads obey his commands as mechanically as if they were automatons. None of them knows aught of the scheme of the carpet, nor is any of them conscious of the progress that is being worked out on the other side of the carpet from that on which the weavers gaze.

### Why Navy Blue.

The blue color so prominent in the uniforms of almost all marines is of hoary origin. Vegetius, in his fifth book on the military affairs of the Romans, traces the origin of this color to the Veneti, an ancient people dwelling near the coast of Biscay and well versed in seamanship. It was customary among them to paint their outgoing ships as well as the masts and sails with a blue color; also their soldiers and sailors wore blue uniforms. According to our author, the Latin word "Venetus," which was both the name of the color and that of the people, points to its origin. From the Veneti the custom was adopted by the Romans. Thus the son of Pompeius, after defeating Caesar's fleet in a naval battle, wore the navy blue, although entitled to the purple. The Veneti were subdued by Caesar after a severe maritime war in 56 B. C.

### Keeping a Diary.

Every once in a while we read of men who have kept diaries for years and years—since babyhood or longer. What a weird idea to be locked up in that relentless manner with the past! Only of course they don't really. They say they did, but they lie about it.

We saw one of these diaries once. Six months of it were filled with two entries repeated over and over: "Saw May;" "Did not see May." The last entry was, "Married May." That was the only sensible diary we ever saw, and we haven't a doubt in the world that it was all faked up afterward to jolly along May.—Los Angeles Times.

### "Gude Tidins o' Muckle Joy."

The Scottish American reprints the story of the first Christmas in dialect from "The New Testament in Braid Scots," a translation by the Rev. William Wye Smith. Here are sample verses (Luke 1: 10-12):

And the angel said, "Be na gill'd; for I bring ye gude tidins o' muckle joy to the hail world! For thar is born t' ye this day, in David's town, a Saviour, wha is the Anointed Lord. And here is the token for ye; ye've fin' the bairn row't in a barriecock, lyin' in a manger."—The Outlook.

## TOO PRECIOUS TO DIVULGE

If Man Ever Really Learns How to Manage a Wife He Selfishly Keeps It to Himself.

It has come to be almost a tradition that men give advice, not take it. A pleasant novelty appears in Good Housekeeping in the shape of pungent philosophy on the marriage question, written by Dorothy Dix.

"De papers is full of heart-to-heart talks to wives 'bout how to keep young an' willowy, so as to retain deir husbands' affection, but dere ain't a word in 'em, from kiver to kiver, to men 'bout how to keep de hair on deir haid an' 'froom gittin' to look lak beer kegs on skids in order to preserve deir wives' love."

"An' when a gal is gwine to git married, her ma, an' her married sisters, an' her cousins, an' her aunts takes her off to one side an' dees fill her up wid usef'ul hints 'bout gittin' off on de right foot, an' strikin' her husband' for his pay envelop befo' he gits well enough acquainted wid her to dast to refuse her, an' drawin' de line at mo' dan one evenin' out a week, an' de odder matters dat helps a woman be de fust finger in her house."

"But you never heah of a father, nor a brother, nor a friend whut's passed through de tribulations of matrimony hangin' up any red lanterns as danger signals for any odder man dat's about to start on de matrimonial 'scursion. Nawm, ef a man ever finds out how to manage a wife he keeps de snap to hisself an' leaves ev' odder man to work out his own salvation de best he can."

## GROW FAR ABOVE SEA LEVEL

Cedars Flourish in Full Vigor at Altitudes Surpassing Height of Most Mountain Peaks.

Eleven thousand one hundred feet altitude above sea level is some distance above the clouds for the habitat of a species of a great tree which attains a circumference of 16 and even 18 feet. The tree is the western mountain cedar, and it is found growing in full vigor at elevations of from 8,000 to over 11,000 feet in the southern portion of the Sierra Nevada and where this huge mountain chain merges over into the Sierra Madre, running down into Mexico. In most of the mountain regions of the United States 11,000 feet is at or above timber line, but in these southern Sierras are many genial high valleys and pockets where huge trees are found at altitudes which surpass the height of most mountain peaks. The snow covers the peaks and slopes for a great portion of the year, but with the earliest melting the trees start growing and in the case of the mountain cedars make an even greater annual growth than many of the lowland trees where the want of water compels a short growing season. These huge mountain cedars are close cousins to the great cedars of Lebanon from the timbers of which the temple at Jerusalem was built. The American cedars, however, are more upright in growth than the cedars of the Old World.

### Educational Problems in India.

The girls' school at Katra, Allahabad, can accommodate but few Hindu girls in the boarding department because of the difficulty of caste. One Brahman girl who was very anxious to enter the school had to be refused because she could not do her own cooking and take the full course, and she could not because of caste regulations eat at the clubs with the Christian girls. A woman was found who would cook for her, but this woman refused to wash the dishes, because to do so would make her ceremonially unclean. A second woman said she would wash the dishes, but she couldn't cook for the Brahman girl because she was of such a low caste that the girl would not eat her cooking. As it was impossible to take in two extra women besides the girl she had to be refused.—The Continent.

### The "Evil Eye."

The evil eye was the power supposed to be possessed by certain envious persons to bring woe and misfortune upon the prosperous and happy by means of a malevolent glance. It was a belief that spread itself pretty well over a place even in minds of the highest caliber. It is odd that Bacon, who conceived and explained a new system of philosophy, could seriously consider a piece of nonsense like that of the evil eye, yet he emerges a moment from the charmed realm of knowledge to say: "Envy, which is called an evil eye, seems to emit some malignant and poisonous spirits that take hold of the spirits of another; and is said likewise to be of greatest force when the cast of the eye is oblique."

### Fishing for Dyes.

It is not generally known that there exists in the Mexican gulf a half-brother to the cuttlefish of the Indian ocean, from which formerly the world's supply of India ink was obtained.

The Indian cuttle, when pursued by sharks or other birds of prey, exudes a black, pasty substance, which discolors the water in its wake, blinding its pursuer, and, screening itself from view, makes its escape. This substance gradually comes to the surface in a foam and is eagerly gathered by the natives, who knead it, dry it, press it into cakes, ready for the market—always commanding a good price.

Dragnetmen have for two or three centuries used India ink because of its deep copy and indelibility.

## HAVE STOOD TEST OF TIME

Quotations With Which All Are Familiar Acquire Popularity Only Because of Their Merits.

The quotation worthy of the high title of "familiar" must have stood the test of time and passed untroubled through the shifting tastes and fashions of centuries. In its lofty or in its humble way it must show that, like Shakespeare, it "was not for an age, but for all time." I used the word "humble" because the rhymes of childhood, of the nursery, fulfill the requirement of age in a quotation worthy to be called familiar. Their intrinsic, their abstract merits may appear slight, they may even seem to be sheer nonsense, but they are passed on by mothers and nurses and by the children themselves from generation to generation. We may be assured that they would not thus have lived and prospered if they had not possessed some quality, however slender, of genuine worth, of real humor or imagination, which gave them permanence.

Then there are the popular sayings, the folk tales and ballads and the songs of the people with an ancestry lost in the mists of antiquity, which, stored in human memory and kept alive only by human lips, have come down across the centuries with their endless variants until at last they have been gathered up by the collector and the antiquarian and made safe from oblivion by print and paper. These tales and ballads are often rude in form and expression, but no curious inquiry is needed to explain their long life and lasting familiarity. In them you find wit and wisdom, sparks struck from the hard flints of experience by men and women struggling unknown through what we call life.—Henry Cabot Lodge in Scribner's.

## FORTUNATE IS HOMELY MAN

If Unduly Attractive, the Unhappy Male Seems Doomed to Misfortune All His Life.

I have no objection whatsoever to children being beautiful, or to young girls being beautiful, or to a woman of whatever age being beautiful. But I do insist that for a man not to be homely is his misfortune. Irvin S. Cobb writes in American Magazine. The handsome male starts with a handicap at the very cradle.

Women of all ages insist on cooing over him and talking baby talk to him and chucking him under the chin and kissing him—especially kissing him—and since he is not of an age to appreciate these attentions the whole procedure must annoy him fearfully.

Should his beauty last into his boyhood the chances are that he has the sort of mother who will make him wear his hair long and force him to go about publicly in a broad lace collar and a black velvet suit with a sash about his waist, and that means other boys will call him by offensively apt nicknames and generally make his young life a burden to him.

Most woeful of it all, if still his beauty sticks to him after he has arrived at man's estate, only a determined and persistent struggle against the odds of destiny and of circumstances can save him from drifting into the ranks of the matinee idols, the moving picture stars and the floorwalkers in the department stores.

### Concrete Oil Tanks.

Storing oil in concrete tanks is the invention of an Englishman. A tank with a capacity of about ten gallons was recently made with a chemically treated concrete aggregate, and after being allowed to "weather" for seven days molding was filled with paraffin oil. Thus filled, it was placed in a shed, where it remained for 15 weeks; at the end of this period it was carefully examined. With the exception of evaporation, no loss had taken place; there was no sign of leakage, and the outside walls of the tank were free from the smell of its contents. Upon removal from the spot on which it had been standing no trace of paraffin could be detected, nor had the under side of the tank acquired any smell. This is probably the most severe test that could be applied to any container.

### Wonderful Island.

White Island, 30 miles from New Zealand, is probably the most extraordinary island in the world. It consists of an enormous mass of rock nearly three miles in circumference, rising 900 feet above the sea, and is perpetually enveloped in dark clouds, which are visible for almost a hundred miles.

The island is rich in sulphur, which for some reason has not yet been adequately utilized. In the interior is a lake full fifty acres in extent, the water of which has a temperature of 110 degrees Fahrenheit, and is strongly impregnated with acids. Great quantities of steam escaping from craters on one side of the lake form the cloud that continually envelops the place.

### Children's Fancies.

Children live in a world of fancy. Whatever may be the real nature of the things they see those things to them are real. Remember that the child has had no experience by which to judge the importance of practical relations of what they see or imagine. Even men and women sixty years old misjudge events, misunderstand relationships of things, attach absurd importance to their imaginings. How must it be with a child who has not been here long enough to test his visions by the standards of observation and experience?—Exchange.